

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 05433 101242Z

46

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 IO-10 OES-05 ACDA-10

ERDA-07 NRC-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 OMB-01

EB-07 ABF-01 TRSE-00 /131 W
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R 101129Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1919
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

UNCLAS TEHRAN 5433

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EAID, CENTO, IR

SUBJ: CENTO SCIENTIFIC COORDINATING BOARD, JUNE 1 AND 3, 1975

1. SUMMARY. FRUITFUL MEETING CONTINUED PROGRESS TOWARD BETTER PLANNING, FOLLOW-UP, AND EVALUATION OF CENTO SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM. THERE WAS A GRATIFYING NUMBER OF MEETING PROPOSALS FROM WHICH TO CHOOSE. CENTO SCIENTIFIC SECRETARY WILL SUBMIT UNOFFICIALLY A LIST INDICATING HIS PRIORITIES FOR SUPPORT BY U.S. EXPERTS AT THESE MEETINGS, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT U.S. EXPERTISE AS WELL AS AVAILABILITY OF BRITISH EXPERTS. END SUMMARY.

2. MEETING WAS CONVENED AT NEW CENTO SCIENTIFIC SECRETARIATE QUARTERS AT 17 KH. BAHRAMI, JUST OFF MAIDAN-E-SHAHRIVAR (TEL: 825). ALL BOARD MEMBERS WERE PRESENT, AND U.S. ALSO HAD BENEFIT OF ADVICE FROM ARTHUR REICH, AID PROGRAM OFFICER FROM ANKARA. MR. R.F. TAYLOR SUBSTITUTED FOR THE BRITISH MEMBER, WHO WAS ON LEAVE IN U.K., AND MR. A.Q. KAZI WAS NEW MEMBER FROM PAKISTAN.

3. SCB CONSIDERED SCIENTIFIC SECRETARY'S REPORTS ON SEVERAL UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 TEHRAN 05433 101242Z

MEETINGS HELD SINCE LAST BOARD MEETING. MOST SIGNIFICANT

ACTION TAKEN WAS TO RECOMMEND THAT FURTHER MEETINGS ON SUBJECT OF NUCLEAR POWER WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR THE CENTO SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM. (IRANIAN MEMBER HAD NO COMMENT ON FAILURE OF IRAN TO SEND DELEGATES TO APRIL MEETING IN LAHORE.)

4. VISIT OF REGIONAL EXPERTS TO SITE OF PATAN EARTHQUAKE IN PAKISTAN IS STILL HELD UP BY NECESSITY FOR CLEARANCE THROUGH SEVERAL PAKISTANI MINISTRIES. THIS EXPERIENCE DAMPENS ENTHUSIASM OF MEMBERS FOR IDEA OF SCIENTIFIC VISITS TO EARTHQUAKE SITES SHORTLY AFTER OCCURRENCE.

5. AFTER APPROVING IN PRINCIPLE SEVERAL NEW PROPOSALS FOR SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS, THE BOARD CHOSE, FROM THE LIST APPROVED AT THIS AND PREVIOUS SCB MEETINGS, FOUR ADDITIONAL MEETINGS TO BE HELD WITHIN THE NEXT TWELVE MONTHS. THE CALENDAR OF FORTHCOMING MEETINGS FOR THE CENTO SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM NOW APPEARS AS FOLLOWS: (1) AUG 16-28, TBTA SUMMER SCHOOL FOR SCIENCE STUDENTS (CANAKKALE); (2) SEPT 21 AND 23, SCB 26 (TEHRAN); (3) OCT 13-15, DOCUMENTATION CENTRES COORDINATING MEETING (ANKARA); (4) PROBABLY MID-OCTOBER, PANEL ON VERTICILLIUM (IZMIR); (5) NOV 10-12, COUNCIL FOR SCIENTIFIC EDUCATION AND RESEARCH (CSER) (ANKARA); (6) PROBABLY JANUARY 1976, PANEL ON REGIONAL PROBLEMS OF EDIBLE FATS AND OILS (LAHORE); (7) POSSIBLY FEBRUARY 1976, CEREALS TECHNOLOGY COURSE (IZMIR); (8) EARLY 1976, PANEL ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS OF LIQUID EFFLUENTS (LAHORE); (9) APRIL 19-21, 1976 MINIMIZATION OF EARTHQUAKE HAZARDS (TEHRAN); (10) POSSIBLY MAY 1976, WHEAT PESTS PROGRAMME MEETING (ANKARA). THOSE WITH SPECIFIC DATES ARE FIRM. SCHEDULING OF THESE MEETINGS DEPENDS PRINCIPALLY UPON CLIMATIC, BUDGETING, AND ACCOMMODATIONS FACTORS.

6. PROGRAM OF CENTO SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS ENVISAGED FOR NEXT 12 MONTHS RESULTS FROM CAREFUL WEIGHING OF ABOUT TWENTY PROPOSALS FROM THE THREE REGIONAL COUNTRIES AND IS BELIEVED TO CONSTITUTE A FAIR BALANCE BETWEEN VARIOUS APPLIED RESEARCH NEEDS. IT ALSO ACCORDS WITH EMPHASIS DESIRED BY AID, I.E., PRACTICAL DEVELOPMENT IN AID OF THE UNDERPRIVILEGED, PARTICULARLY IN THE RURAL SECTOR.

7. ALTHOUGH AMERICAN MEMBER CONTINUED TO PRESS FOR MORE
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PAGE 03 TEHRAN 05433 101242Z

DETAIL ON WHICH TO BASE JUDGMENT ON THE WORTHINESS OF PROPOSALS SUBMITTED BY REGIONAL COUNTRIES, IT MUST BE RECOGNIZED THAT MANY PANEL MEETINGS ARE ORGANIZED SPECIFICALLY FOR PURPOSE OF DETERMINING IF A CONCURRENCE OF RESEARCH INTEREST AND CAPABILITY EXISTS. CORRESPONDENCE TO ELICIT THIS INFORMATION BEFOREHAND HAS NOT PROVEN PRACTICAL. THEREFORE, INFORMATION SUBMITTED WITH A PANEL MEETING PROPOSAL IS OFTEN OF NECESSITY SKETCHY. NEVERTHELESS, THE SECRETARIATE WILL IN FUTURE

INDICATE ANY PROPOSALS OR SUGGESTIONS FOR HOST INSTITUTIONS.

8. AMERICAN MEMBER HOPES THAT IN THE FUTURE PROPOSALS FOR CENTO SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS CAN BE SCRUTINIZED BY APPROPRIATE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OFFICIALS IN USG BEFORE THE SCB AT WHICH THEY ARE TO BE CONSIDERED SO THAT HE WILL HAVE THE BENEFIT OF THEIR JUDGMENTS IN A FULLY COORDINATED BRIEFING PAPER LIKE THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT PROVIDES TO ITS MEMBER.

9. BOARD FOUND ITSELF PROHIBITED BY LAST CSER FROM COMMITTING MSF FUNDS ON SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH EXPECTED TO DEVELOP INTO LONG-TERM PROJECTS. PROHIBITION UNDULY DELAYS INITIATION OF PROJECTS DEEMED WORTHY BY SCB, AND ONE CASE IN POINT IS TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE ECONOMIC STEERING GROUP IN ANKARA. SCB FELT THIS WAS IN KEEPING WITH RECENT ESG CONSENSUS THAT BUREAUCRATIC DELAYS SHOULD BE KEPT TO MINIMUM AND PRACTICAL RESULTS EMPHASIZED.

10. IT WAS ALSO NOTED IN PASSING THAT SCB IS RECEIVING A LARGE NUMBER OF PROPOSALS FOR VISITS TO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES AND THAT TOTAL EXPENSES FOR THESE PROBABLY DOES NOT ACCORD WITH LEVEL OF PRIORITY GIVEN SUCH ACTIVITIES BY CSER. THIS QUESTION SHOULD BE ADDRESSED BY NEXT CSER.

MIKLOS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION, COMMITTEE MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TEHRAN05433
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750202-0098
From: TEHRAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750663/aaaacfon.tel
Line Count: 139
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 FEB 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 FEB 2003 by PhilliR0>; APPROVED <04 FEB 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CENTO SCIENTIFIC COORDINATING BOARD, JUNE 1 AND 3, 1975
TAGS: EAID, IR, CENTO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006